

(1) *For external (shell) defects.* 10 percent, by count, for almonds which fail to meet the requirements of this grade other than for variety and size;

(2) *For dissimilar varieties.* 5 percent, by count, including therein not more than 1 percent for bitter almonds mixed with sweet almonds;

(3) *For size.* 5 percent, by count, for almonds which are smaller than the specified minimum thickness;

(4) *For loose extraneous and foreign material.* 2 percent, by weight, including therein not more than 1 percent which can pass through a round opening $\frac{25}{64}$ inch in diameter: *Provided*, That such material is practically free from insect infestation; and,

(5) *For internal (kernel) defects.* 10 percent, by count, for almonds with kernels failing to meet the requirements of this grade: *Provided*, That not more than one-half of this tolerance or 5 percent shall be allowed for kernels affected by decay or rancidity, damaged by insects or mold or seriously damaged by shriveling, including not more than one-half of 1 percent for almonds with live insects inside the shell.

§ 51.2076 U.S. No. 1 Mixed.

“U.S. No. 1 Mixed” consists of almonds in the shell which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade, except that two or more varieties of sweet almonds are mixed.

§ 51.2077 U.S. No. 2.

“U.S. No. 2” consists of almonds in the shell which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade, except that an additional tolerance of 20 percent shall be allowed for almonds with shells damaged by discoloration.

§ 51.2078 U.S. No. 2 Mixed.

“U.S. No. 2 Mixed” consists of almonds in the shell which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 2 grade, except that two or more varieties of sweet almonds are mixed.

UNCLASSIFIED

§ 51.2079 Unclassified.

“Unclassified” consists of almonds in the shell which have not been classified in accordance with any of the foregoing grades. The term “unclassified” is not

a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no definite grade has been applied to the lot.

APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES

§ 51.2080 Application of tolerances.

The tolerances for the foregoing grades are applied to the entire lot of almonds, based upon a composite sample drawn from containers throughout the lot.

DETERMINATION OF GRADE

§ 51.2081 Determination of grade.

In grading the inspection sample, the percentage of loose hulls, pieces of shell, chaff and foreign material is determined on the basis of weight. Next, the percentages of nuts which are of dissimilar varieties, undersize or have adhering hulls or defective shells are determined by count, using an adequate portion of the total sample. Finally, the nuts in that portion of the sample are cracked, and the percentage having internal defects is determined on the basis of count.

DEFINITIONS

§ 51.2082 Similar varietal characteristics.

Similar varietal characteristics means that the almonds are similar in shape, and are reasonably uniform in degree of hardness of the shells, and that bitter almonds are not mixed with sweet almonds. For example, hard-shelled varieties, semisoft shelled varieties, soft-shelled varieties and paper-shelled varieties are not mixed together, nor are any two of these types mixed under this definition.

§ 51.2083 Loose extraneous and foreign material.

Loose extraneous and foreign material means loose hulls, empty broken shells, pieces of shells, external insect infestation and any substance other than almonds in the shell or almond kernels.

§ 51.2084 Clean.

Clean means that the shell is practically free from dirt and other adhering foreign material.

§ 51.2085 Fairly bright.

Fairly bright means that the shells show good characteristic color.

§ 51.2086 Fairly uniform color.

Fairly uniform color means that the shells do not show excessive variation in color.

§ 51.2087 Well dried.

Well dried means that the kernel is firm and brittle, not pliable or leathery.

§ 51.2088 Decay.

Decay means that part or all of the kernel has become decomposed.

§ 51.2089 Rancidity.

Rancidity means that the kernel is noticeably rancid to the taste.

§ 51.2090 Damage.

Damage means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, or any other defect, or any combination of defects which materially detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the almond or of the lot. The following defects shall be considered as damage:

(a) Discoloration of the shell which is medium gray to black and affects more than one-eighth of the surface in the aggregate. Normal variations of a reddish or brownish color shall not be considered discoloration;

(b) Adhering hulls which cover more than 5 percent of the shell surface in the aggregate;

(c) Broken shells when a portion of the shell is missing, or the shell is broken or fractured to the extent that moderate pressure will permit the kernel to become dislodged;

(d) Insects when an insect or insect fragment, web or frass is present inside the shell, or the kernel shows distinct evidence of insect feeding;

(e) Mold when attached to the kernel and conspicuous; or when inconspicuous white or gray mold affects a total of more than one-eighth of the surface of the kernel;

(f) Gum which is shiny and resinous and covers more than one-eighth of the surface of the kernel;

(g) Skin discoloration when more than one-half of the surface of the kernel is affected by very dark or black stains contrasting with the natural color of the skin;

(h) Shriveling when the kernel is excessively thin or when less than three-fourths of the pellicle is filled with meat. An almond containing two kernels shall not be classed as damaged if either kernel has more than three-fourths of the pellicle filled with meat; and,

(i) Brown spot which affects an aggregate area on the kernel greater than the area of a circle one-eighth inch in diameter.

§ 51.2091 Serious damage.

Serious damage means the specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of this defect, or any other defect, or any combination of defects which seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the almond. The following defect shall be considered as serious damage:

(a) Shriveling when less than one-fourth of the pellicle is filled with meat. An almond containing two kernels shall not be classed as seriously damaged if either kernel has more than one-fourth of the pellicle filled with meat.

§ 51.2092 Thickness.

Thickness means the greatest dimensions between the two semi-flat surfaces of the shell measured at right angles to a plane extending between the seams of the shell.

Subpart—United States Standards for Grades of Shelled Almonds

SOURCE: 25 FR 7273, Aug. 3, 1960, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981.

GRADES

§ 51.2105 U.S. Fancy.

“U.S. Fancy” consists of shelled almonds of similar varietal characteristics which are whole, clean and well dried, and which are free from decay,